



03500.017483.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
YUKIO CHIBA) Examiner: G. Lamarre
Appln. No.: 10/642,231) Art Unit: 2133
Filed: August 18, 2003)
For: IMAGE PROCESSING)
APPARATUS AND METHOD)
THEREFOR) September 14, 2006

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

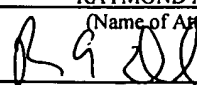
Sir:

A Notice of Allowance was mailed in the above-identified application on June 14, 2006. In lieu of paying the Issue and Publication Fees at this time, a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) has been filed concurrently herewith. Prior to continued examination on the merits, please further amend the above-identified application as follows:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

September 14, 2006
(Date of Deposit)

RAYMOND A. DIPERNA (Reg. No. 44,063)
(Name of Attorney for Applicants)


Signature

September 14, 2006
Date of Signature